

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Examiner's Action mailed August 19, 2008. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the comments set forth below.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8-11 and 15 are amended. The paragraphs spanning pages 20-23 and page 41, lines 18-20 of the present application support the amendments to the claims. Accordingly, claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,140,522 to Ito et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Ito"). This rejection is traversed.

Ito is directed to a method and apparatus for machine translation utilizing previously translated documents where words and sentences are used to measure the similarity between a first language input data (allegedly the second document) and a first language storage (allegedly the first document) and sentences and/or words from input data D1 (second document) are compared to sentences in storage data D2. This is not the claimed invention.

According to the claimed invention, if the degree of similarity at a shallow hierarchy position is high, the degree of similarity at a deep hierarchy position is estimated high. On the contrary, if the degree of similarity at a shallow hierarchy is low, the degree of similarity at a deep hierarchy position gets lowered so that it may not be too high. For example, as described on page 20, lines 19-25 of the present application, if the position of a sentence in a block changes, even though the character string of the sentence

remains the same, the claimed invention would reflect the change of position in the degree of similarity (the deep hierarchy position block would have a lowered similarity from the shallow hierarchy position block).

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to recite this feature. In particular, independent claim 1 is amended as follows:

wherein the relationship detection section comprises a first degree-of-similarity calculation section which calculates a predetermined degree of similarity between a sentence block related to the first document and a sentence block related to the second document for all combinations which are available among sentence blocks of the first and second documents, a relationship of a sentence block having a higher degree of similarity to sentence blocks at the same hierarchy being preferentially detected, and the first degree-of-similarity detection section being controlled to increase the degree of similarity of a sentence block which is near the sentence block, the relationship of which is detected in the document, and

wherein the degree of similarity of a block belonging to an unfixed block, the relationship of which is not yet determined not to exist, is lower than the degree of similarity of a block belonging to a fixed block, the relationship of which can be determined.

Nowhere does Ito disclose a method and apparatus where 1) the degree of similarity is calculated for all the combinations of blocks for the first and second document and 2) the degree of similarity of a block belonging to a block whose relationship has yet to be determined not to exist **is lower** than the degree of similarity of a block belonging to a block whose relationship can be determined. In a similar manner, the above features are recited in independent claims 8 and 15. Consequently, Ito cannot anticipate claims 1-2 and 4-15 because it does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Conclusion

Applicants have fully responded to each matter of substance raised in the Office Action and believes that the case is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-15 of the application is therefore courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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